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7-14-03IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : John Marshall GAFFNEY et al.

Serial No. : 10/087,702

Fee ok

L. Spruell

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Stephen R. Funk

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Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Date: 7/3/03

Signature: R. Hassan

AMENDMENT

SIR:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action of March 3, 2003 and amend the above-captioned application as set forth below.

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800
RECEIVED
JUL 10 2003
PleaseIN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 9, the paragraph starting on line 23 has been amended as follows:

Furthermore, the printing blanket 18 has a cylindrical outer surface 40 which is continuous and free of gaps to promote smooth rolling engagement with the cylindrical outer surface of the printing plate 41 on the plate cylinder 22. The absence of gaps in the smooth cylindrical outer surface 40 of the printing blanket 18 eliminates bumps or vibrations as compared to having a gap which rolls into and out of engagement with the surface of the printing plate 41 on the plate cylinder 22. The elimination of bumps or vibrations tends to minimize smearing of the ink pattern as it is applied to the surface 40 of the printing blanket 18 by the printing plate 41 on the plate cylinder 22.